

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 219837 TOSEC 260066

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 6097 ACTION SECSTATE CAIRO

4 SEP 76

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6097

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS DIA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US EG IS

SUBJ: ISRAELI ACTION AGAINST AMOCO OPERATIONS IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF: TEL AVIV 6095

1. DATT AND ARMA WERE CALLED TO MEETING SEPT 4, 1100 HOURS, WITH CHIEF OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE, HIS DEPUTY AND DEPUTY CHIEF OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS, IDF. PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS EXPLAINED AS A CONTINUING EFFORT TO KEEP USG INFORMED OF EVENTS IN GULF OF SUEZ. ALL BRIEFING WAS DONE BY CHIEF OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE WHO CONTACTED OPERATIONS CENTER DURING BRIEFING FOR MOST CURRENT INFORMATION. THIS REPORT IS THEREFORE CONSIDERED CURRENT AS OF THAT TIME.

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2. THROUGHOUT DAY OF SEPT 3, ISRAELI NAVY (IN) NOTED UNUSUAL

ACTIVITIES ON EGYPTIAN SIDE OF RED SEA. SOMETIME BEFORE MIDNIGHT, NOTED MOVEMENT NORTH FROM EGYPTIAN RED SEA NAVAL PORT AL GHUTDAQAH RPT AL GHUTDAQAH 27 15N; 33 40E OF ONE OSA CLASS BOAT AND ONE ISHERSHEN CLASS BOAT. IN THEN CONCLUDED THAT DRILLING RIG MARINER WOULD AGAIN BE MOVING TO DRILLING POSITION. AT THAT TIME (EXACT TIM NOT ESTABLISHED) IN DISPATCHED ON MISSILE BOAT FROM THEIR RED SEA BASE WHICH PARALLELED MOVEMENT OF EGYPTIAN BOATS NORTH IN GULF. IN MISSILE BOAT LINKED UP WITH FOUR (4) IN PATROL BOATS (DABUR CLASS) VICINITY OF AT TUR.

3. AT 0623 HOURS SEPT 4, MARINER, TOWED BY TWO TUGS, WAS OBSERVED EAST OF MEDIAN LINE IN SAME POSITION AS SHE HAD BEEN NIGHT OF 31 AUGUST-1 SEPT. (DRILLING SITE 304.1). CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE STATED THAT ONE DABUR APPROACHED MARINER IN SAME MANNER AS HAD OCCURRED N 31 AUGUST AND ASKED MARINER TO MOVE 1500 METERS WEST. MARINER IMMEDIATELY STARTED TO COMPLY.

4. WHILE MARINER WAS MOVING WEST, RANGES BETWEEN IN PATROL CRAFT AND EGYPTIAN OSA AND ISHERSHEN CLOSED DOWN TO SEVERAL HUNDRED METERS. AT THIS TIME, A SHORT BURST OF NOT MORE THAN FOUR (4) ROUNDS (NOT FUTHER IDENTIFIED) WERE FIRED BY ONE OF THE EGYPTIAN SHIPS. THIS FIRE WAS DESCRIBED AS QUOTE UNAIED UNQUOTE. IN BELIEVES THIS WAS ACCIDENTIAL DISCHARGE WHICH OCCURRED WHEN EGYPTIANS WENT TO ACTION STATIONS AND LOADED WEAPONS. NO REPEAT NO FIRE WAS RETURNED BY IN.

5. MARINER CROSSED MEDIAN LINE TO WEST AT 0655 HOURS SEPT 4. AT THAT TIME LINE-UP WAS MARINER WEST OF LINE, TWO EGYPTIAN SHIPS WEST OF LINE BUT EAST OF MARINER, FOUR IN DABOUR PATROL CRAFT EAST OF LINE AND ONE IN MISSILE BOAT EAST OF DABOURS.

6. SOMETIME AFTER 1000 HOURS, MARINER APPEARED TO HEAD WEST IN DIRECTION OF SHORE ANCHORAGE ON WEST SIDE OF GULF.

7. AT 1115 HOURS, THE TWO EGYPTIAN BOATS WERE ALSO MOVING WEST AND LEAVING THE SCENE. THEY APPARENTLY WERE HEADED TOWARDS SAME ANCHORAGE AS MARINER. (RAS SHUKHAYR)

8. ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT CONFIRM AS HE WAS NOT IN OPERATIONS
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CENTER IN PREVIOUS HOUR, CHIEF OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE STATED THAT HE BELIEVES ORDER WILL NOW BE GIVEN TO IN BOATS TO RETURN TO ANCHORAGE AT AT TUR.

9. IN ALSO NOTED TWO EGYPTIAN ROCKET LAUNCHING SHIPS MOVING TOWARD AREA DURING NIGHT. HOWEVER, THEY NEVER ARRIVED IN THE INCIDENT VICINTIY DESPITE THERE HAVING BEEN ENOUGH TIME TO HAVE DONE SO. IN BELIEVES THEY HAVE GONE TO SHORE ANCHORAGE.

10. NO HELICOPTERS WERE SEEN IN AREA BY IN.

11. EXACT WORDING USED BY IN CAPTAIN WHEN TALKING TO MARINER
WAS NOT KNOWN BY IN CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE. HE STATED THAT HE
WOULD ESTABLISH WHAT WORDS WERE USED AND WILL ADVISE US.

TOON

UNQUOTE

ROBINSON

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